







Dear Sirs and Madams,

I am very glad to join you in celebrating this first edition of the *International Day of the Educating Cities*, twenty-six years after the declaration of the Chart of the Educating Cities in Barcellona. A net of 480 cities all over the world, guided by administrators both female and male who are truly interested in a conscious and balanced growth of the youngest citizens, as well as in the future of their own territory.

It is fundamental for the mayors and the administrators of this millennium to be responsible for the future of our beloved Earth, to develop some kinds of active policies for the young in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs) of United Nations, in order to involve the society in building a process of growth in sustainability in view of the year 2020.

For all these reasons I have chosen to be part of the celebration of this special day along with my whole community, to put once again light on the importance of thinking and acting in view of an educational culture.

In a society that is currently complex and fragmented, which sometimes is refractory to youth issues, it is essential that institutions work together with people operating in the education sector, to support the young in their growth so that they can identify in them an appropriate guide along the difficult path towards the adulthood.

Therefore, the key issue is the fostering of a strong and valuable collaboration among local institutions, schools and operators, also involving the various levels of Government.

We have the duty to vigorously bring to public attention the concept of *educating city*, a city that educates, both trough the social and associative net and trough the develop of more or less structured activities that need to see the institutions at the forefront of their promotion.

This, because it is appropriate to imagine and organize educational activities as actions that are able to go outside the walls of the school and accompany the young throughout the day and the year.

Our local Administration, along with the whole community, is always in the front row to support the importance of the continuity in education for the new generations.

This is our common mission, this is our challenge, and I am proud to lead a great community able to connect women and men of good will, eager to be proactive players for the future of our cities.

I wish you all a good job,

With love,

Alessio Falorni

Mayor of Castelfiorentino